

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE DIVISION
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

Report No. 3090
October, 1988

MICHIGAN BREEDING QUAIL SURVEY
1986-1987-1988

Quail numbers have rebounded dramatically across much of the traditional range during the past three years. This report is a summary of breeding surveys conducted during 1986, 1987, and 1988.

1986

Continued low quail populations are reported by field personnel. Only two breeding survey routes were completed in 1986.

1987

Eight selected counties were surveyed in June, 1987 to obtain information on quail population response to the mild winters of 1985-86, and 1986-87.

Field observations and survey results indicate significant population increases in portions of the range, particularly the eastern counties of Region III.

1988

Thirty-nine (39) breeding quail survey routes were run in 32 counties during the month of June, 1988. Survey results substantiated positive quail population response to three consecutively mild winters. Most noticeable increases were in the eastern counties of southern Michigan.

The Low population of birds in southwestern counties appears to reflect the effects of scattered heavy snow and ice storms during 1985-86 and 1986-87.

The first hunting season for Quail since 1977 was recommended to, and approved by the Natural Resources Commission for 19 counties in eastern and south-central lower Michigan.

REVISED

1988 Breeding Quail Survey Data

DISTRICT 9

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Heard</u>
Clinton	0
Gratiot	0
Ionia	2
Kent	0
Montcalm	5
Muskegon	0

DISTRICT 11

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Heard</u>
Genesee	11
Huron	NR*
Lapeer	12
Saginaw	6
St. Clair, N.	12
Sanilac	16
Shiawassee	14, 6

DISTRICT 12

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Heard</u>
Allegan	0
Barry	1
Berrien	0
Cass	0
Kalamazoo	1
St. Joseph	5
Van Buren	NR*

DISTRICT 13

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Heard</u>
Branch	5, 0
Calhoun	10
Eaton	12, 5
Hillsdale	12
Ingham	13
Jackson	14, 4, 0
Lenawee	15
Livingston	20
Washtenaw	28

DISTRICT 14

<u>County</u>	<u>No. Heard</u>
Macomb	11
Monroe	15, 9
Oakland	5, 2, 1
St. Clair	5, 26
Wayne	21

* NR - Not Run

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Quail Whistling Counts
1979 - 1988

Number of Quail Heard Per Route

COUNTY	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Allegan	1	1	3	1	0	2	2	-	0	0
Barry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Berrien	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Branch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Calhoun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Cass	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Clinton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Eaton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Genesee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Gratiot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Hillsdale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ingham	1	2	5	4	8	1	1	-	15	13
Ionia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Jackson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Kalamazoo	2	0	3	3	2	-	0	-	0	1
Lapeer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Lenawee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Livingston,S.	2	2	7	6	8	8	5	11	13	20
Macomb	2	8	5	1	7	8	6	-	10	11
Monroe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Montcalm	12	7	16	9	21	10	1	-	-	5
Oakland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Saginaw	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	-	-	6
Shiawassee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
St. Clair,N	9	22	26	-	28	17	8	-	-	12
St. Clair,S	1	7	10	4	16	8	10	-	18	26
St. Joseph	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Sanilac	-	-	6	1	0	-	0	-	-	16
Tuscola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Washtenaw	3	12	18	0	4	11	8	4	17	28
Wayne	1	3	2	4	4	8	11	-	15	21
Average Per Route	3.0	5.8	8.4	3.0	8.9	6.4	4.3	7.5	12.6	9.7
Comparable Rts.	3.4	5.1	7.5	2.6	6.7	5.2	4.3	7.5	12.6*	19.8

*Compared to 1985 routes